

include test anxiety, slow reading without an identified underlying cognitive deficit, English as a second language, and learning difficulties that have not been diagnosed as a medically recognized disability.

Understanding the Need for Documentation

Although most learning-disabled medical students are all too familiar with the often exhausting process of providing documentation of their disability, you should realize that **applying for USMLE accommodation is different from these previous experiences**. This is because the NBME determines whether an individual is disabled solely on the basis of the guidelines set by the ADA. **Previous accommodation does not in itself justify provision of an accommodation for the USMLE**, so be sure to review the NBME guidelines carefully.

Getting the Information

The first step in applying for USMLE special accommodations is to contact the NBME and obtain a guidelines and questionnaire booklet. For the Step 1 and Step 2 CK exams, this can be obtained by calling or writing to:

Disability Services

National Board of Medical Examiners
3750 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-3102
(215) 590-9509
Email: disabilityservices@nbme.org
www.usmle.org/test-accommodations

Internet access to this information is also available at www.nbme.org. This information is also relevant for IMGs, since the information is the same as that sent by the ECFMG.

Foreign graduates should contact the ECFMG to obtain information on special accommodations by calling or writing to:

ECFMG

3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685
(215) 386-5900
www.ecfm.org

When you get this information, take some time to read it carefully. The guidelines are clear and explicit about what you need to do to obtain accommodations.